Quacks Working as Doctors in Delhi

993. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 30,000 quacks have been practising in Delhi as per assessment made by the Quackery Eradication Committee of Delhi Medical Association and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Delhi High Court had issued direction in May, 1997 to the effect that no doctor without a medical degree be alowed to practise medicine;

(c) if so, what is the number of quacks who have been identified and action taken against them since the decision of the High Court in this regard;

(d) whether Government are taking any action to stop this illegal practice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Exact number of quacks practising in Delhi is not know as no survey has been conducted in this regard so far. Nor has the Govt. of NCT of Delhi received such information from Quackery Eradication Committee of Delhi Medical Association. However, 1200 complaints have been received by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has constituted a committee consisting of officers of Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of ISM, Drug Control Deptt. and Delhi Police. So far 140 visits have been made and in 17 cases, the existence of quacks has been established which have referred to Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Apart from the steps as indicated in part (c), the following steps have also been initiated:

(i) An Anti-Quackery Bill has been introduced in the Delhi Assembly.

(ii) A circular dated 6-10-97 has been sent by Govt. of India to all State Health Secretaries requesting the to invoke the penal provisions of IMC Act, 1956 and to take action to put an end to the problom of quachery.

Launching of Revised National Tuberculosis Programme

994. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch the revised National Tuberculosis programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of enough medicines and adequate number of chest specialists in the country, cases of common tuberculosis are turning into multi-drug resistant (MDR) T.B.; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the growing incidence of T.B., especially the MDR variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Revised National TB Control Programme came into operation from 26th March, 1997. The Revised Strategy which has been pilot tested from 1993 onwards at a population of 13.85 million will be implemented in 102 district of 15 States in a phased manner over a period of three years covering a population of 271.21 million. In addition to this another 203 Short Course Chemotherapy districts will be strengthened by providing necessary infrastructure and training to prepare them to adopt the Revised Strategy at a later stage.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.